

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1945

E.O. 11652: GDS
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SUBJ: GORM

PART II - EVALUATION OF GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

THE AID PROGRAM IS THE ONLY USG ACTIVITY IN ADDITION TO THE EMBASSY'S TRADITIONAL DIPLOMACY WHICH IS CARRIED ON BILATERALLY WITH THE SOCIALIST ETHIOPIAN PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT (PMGSE) AND WITHIN THE MULTI-LATERAL OAU FRAMEWORK. THE PEACE CORPS RETIRED FROM ETHIOPIA IN 1976, AND THE PERSONNEL OF ICA, MAAG, NAMRU, AND DAO WERE ALL FORCED OUT BY THE PMGSE IN THE SPRING OF 1977, THUS CLOSING DOWN ALL BUT THEIR RESIDUAL ACTIVITIES HANDLED BY THE EMBASSY. PRESENT AID STRATEGY WAS DEVELOPED IN 1977 WHEN WE LOOKED WITH CERTAIN CONFIDENCE FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS IN GERNERAL AND A WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF ETHIOPIA TO LET THE US ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH CERTAIN OF ETHIOPIA'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS. PROJECTS WERE DRAWN UP TO IMPROVE LIFE FOR RURAL MASSES, DISCOURAGE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, INPROVE THE US IMAGE AMONG ETHIOPIAN RULING CIRCLES AND ENCOURAGE OTHER DONORS. THE EMBASSY FOUND THEM TO BE WELL DESIGNED FOR THE INTENDED GOALS.

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THE RESPONSE OF SOCIALIST ETHIOPIA HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN DISAPPOINTING DURING THE PAST YEAR, TO SAY THE LEAST. IN EFFECT, EVER SINCE THE 1974 REVOLUTION THERE HAS BEEN UNWILLINGNESS ON THE POLITICAL LEVEL TO SIGN NEW DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AGREEMENTS SINCE THEY WOULD INITALLY SHED FAVORABLE LIGHT ON THE OTHERWISE IMPERIALIST US, SCHEMING

TO EXPLOIT THE MASSES OF ETHIOPIA AS WELL AS ALL OF THE
THIRD WORLD.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PMGSE HAS SHOWN CONSIDERABLY
GREATER WILLINGNESS TO SIGN UP FOR BILATERAL AND MULTI-
LATERAL DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE TO MEET ITS ENORMOUS
NEEDS CAUSED BOTH BY NATURE AND BY WAR. PART OF THE REASON
IS THAT THE RELIEF AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION
ACTIVITIES ARE LESS SUBJECT TO POLITICAL OVERSIGHT BY
THE NATION'S RULING MILITARY LEADERSHIP KNOWN AS THE
DIRG. BUT ALSO, RELIEF ASSISTANCE IS SEEN AS NOT BEING
SUBVERSIVE OF THE COUNTRY'S REVOLUTIONARY
GOALS IN THE SAME MANNER OR TO THE SAME EXTENT AS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. FOR THESE REASONS, THE
EMBASSY AND USAID HAVE SUGGESTED THAT UNLESS THERE ARE
SOME BASIC CHANGES SOON IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS --
STILL NOT A FORLORN HOPE -- OUR WHOLE ASSISTANCE STRATEGY
WILL NEED REVIEW. (THERE ARE ALSO HICKENLOOPER AND
GONZALEZ CONSIDERATIONS.) IT IS PREMATURE, HOWEVER, TO
CALL FOR A CHANGE FROM EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPMENT TO RELIEF
AND REHABILITATION WITHOUT CONSIDERABLY MORE DIALOGUE
BETWEEN THE POST AND WASHINGTON. IF IT BECOMES NECESSARY
TO RESTRUCTURE THE ENTIRE PROGRAM, THE SIZE AND SHAPE OF
USAID WOULD BE ALTERED SIGNIFICANTLY.

THE ORDER OF USG ACTIVITIES OR PORTIONS OF ACTIVITIES
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WHICH CHARG FINDS LEAST IMPORTANT TO ATTAINMENT OF
AGREED MISSION GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES
WAS PROVIDED IN ADDIS ABABA 1780 OF 4/14/78.
MATHERON

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